City Authorities Put Into Effect Oregon Criminal Syndicalism Law:

War Declared on Local Bolsheviki by Police; Socialist Official is One of Six Arrested

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War has been declared by the police on the Bolsheviki. The secretary of the state Socialist Party, Harlin Talbert, and five of his fellow-cohorts, are lodged in the city jail on charges of felony.

No more IWW propaganda intended to start riots, strikes, or any other labor trouble can now be circulated in the city, if the police known about it, for about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon [Feb. 8, 1919] Mayor George L. Baker and Captain John T. Moore learned that they had a criminal syndicalism law back of them, and that the state courts had the power since February 3 to send anyone to the penitentiary who is found guilty of violating its provisions.

Citizens who find any seditious or anarchistic literature on their porches or who meet men on the streets trying to sell it are requested to do do the patriotic duty of calling the police at once, so a motorcycle officer can be rushed to arrest the circulators before they get out of sight.

Stringent Law in Effect.

"The mayor requested me to call Secretary of State [Ben W.] Olcott and ask him concerning new state laws governing those opposed to government," said Captain Moore. "I was told by Mr. Olcott that

the legislature passed a criminal syndicalism law on February 3 with the emergency clause attached. This makes it legal for us to arrest anybody now who persists in trying to overthrow the government."

About 4:20 o'clock Saturday, just a few minutes after the conversation ended with Salem, H.A. Coyle of the Tehuantepec Plantation Co., 826 Northwestern Bank building, rushed into the police station and demanded Captain Moor arrest the man selling The Western Socialist at Second and Yamhill streets.

"If you don't, I'm going back up there and beat him up, so he can't sell any more," he said.

Motorcycle Officer Gouldstone beat Coyle to the corner and placed Joseph J. Wirth under arrest.

Socialist Secretary Taken.

A few minutes later Officer A.W. Smith marched in Varline Wore from Second and Alder streets, and he had hardly put his man behind the bars before Officer F.D. Heppner brought in a third man, Alvire Slover, also from Second and Alder streets. One of these two men had an express wrapper about his papers, which read, "Harlin Talbert, 231-½ Oak Street, Portland, Oregon," indicating that the literature previously inside had come from the Socialist headquarters at Chicago. Judge Rossman happened to be in the lobby at the time and advised the immediate arrest of Talbert. Officer Smith rushed from the station, and in a few minutes returned with the Socialist secretary. While Smith was away, Officer Sperry brought in Ben Willey from First and Alder streets.

The police are holding the men without bail until a complaint is signed, because the state law fixes criminal syndicalism as a felony.

When the officers sign the complaint against the men Monday morning [Feb. 10] after the municipal court opens, Judge Rossman said he would probably set bail for each man at $2500.

The front page of the issue of the Socialist paper held as evidence contains articles telling of revolts, strikes, and labor troubles in Russia, Germany, England, Japan, Sweden, and Seattle. The second page has a large advertisement giving the names of Socialistic books which may be purchased. The third page is devoted mainly to a translation

of the Russian constitution and the last page is devoted to "editorials."

As soon as Officers Grism and Schad learned of the new law, they added the charge of criminal syndicalism against George Savolainen, who was arrested Friday night at Fourth and Yamhill streets on a charge of distributing handbills without a license. This lesser case has been set for 9 o'clock Monday morning.

George Savolainen, a 19-year old Finn, was arrested by the police Friday afternoon [Feb. 7] while handing out radical literature at Fourth and Yamhill streets. He was taken into custody by Sergeant Crate and Officer Grism and held on a charge of distributing handbills without a license.

Savolainen's Literature Confiscated.

Savolainen was arrested January 24 at the plant of the Albina Engine & Machine Works for distributing IWW literature and attempting to stir up strife and discontent. He had in his possession a number of circulars and pamphlets of H.M. Wicks, leader of the local Socialists, and was sentenced to pay a fine of $30 and spend 30 days in jail. Savolainen appealed his case to the circuit court and secured his liberty by depositing $250 cash bail.

The youth has been in this country 12 years and speaks broken English. He resides in a rooming house on Holladay Avenue, near the river.

The bills which Savolainen was caught distributing Friday advocate a general strike and call upon workingmen to prepare for a class struggle. The assertion that the days of the revolution are at hand is also contained, subtly worded, in the dodger. Savolainen's supply of the revolutionary documents was confiscated by the police.

Edited by Tim Davenport
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